

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /100 W
-----039984 021247Z /53

R 021110Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2395
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL TANGIER
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3627

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MO, SP
SUBJECT: SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS CALLS FOR RETURN OF SPANISH ENCLAVES

1. SUMMARY: SEMI-OFFICIAL EDITORIAL RAISES DORMANT SPANISH ENCLAVES ISSUE WITH LOW-KEY APPEAL FOR THEIR RAPID PEACEFUL RETURN. SPANISH EMBASSY IN RABAT HAD NOT EXPECTED ISSUE TO BE AIRED AT THIS TIME, BUT ATTACHES NO SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY

2. CITING NEAR-END OF COLONIALISM WITH INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI, SEMI-OFFICIAL MAROC SOIR EDITORIAL JUNE 29 REITERATED MOROCCO'S "INALIENABLE RIGHTS" IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY SPAIN AND HOPED THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED IN THE SPIRIT OF ENTENTE AND COOPERATION. PAPER ALSO LINKED RECOVERY OF THE ENCLAVES WITH MOROCCO'S CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR SPANISH CLAIM TO GIBRALTAR: "THE LAW IS WITH SPAIN AS IT IS WITH US." POINTING TO DANGER SINCE ROMAN TIMES THAT COLONIAL ARMIES HAVE
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POSED FOR THE METROPOLE, THE ARTICLE ARGUED THAT RAPID, PEACEFUL TRANSFORMATION WAS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES. NEWLY DEMOCRATIC MONARCHIST SPAIN SHOULD COOPERATE WITH MOROCCO, THUS REINFORCING COMMON HISTORICAL, GEOPOLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFINITIES.

3. SPANISH AMBASSADOR COMMENTED TO US JUNE 30 THAT SEMI-OFFICIAL

PRESS WOULD NOT HAVE RAISED ENCLAVES WITHOUT HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION. HE HAD NOT EXPECTED ISSUE TO BE AIRED AT THIS TIME, BUT ATTACHED NO SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE MOVE, SEEING IT MAINLY AS GOM PERIODICALLY GOING ON RECORD ON LONG-STANDING ISSUE WHICH WOULD NOT SOON BE RESOLVED. SPANISH POLITICAL COUNSELOR SPECULATED SAME DAY THAT CURRENT OAU SUMMIT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RELATED TO GOM'S REEMPHASIS OF ANTI-COLONIAL STANCE. MOROCCANS MIGHT IN ADDITION FEEL THAT INTERNAL SITUATION IN SPAIN HAD EVOLVED IN THEIR FAVOR. GOM, IN HIS VIEW, ALSO COULD NOT LET ITSELF BE COMPLETELY OUTDONE BY OPPOSITION PARTIES, WHICH REFER TO ENCLAVES REGULARLY. NOTING MOROCCAN SUPPORT AT LIBREVILLE ON CANARY ISLANDS ISSUE, COUNSELOR SAW THE EDITORIAL AS A REMINDER THAT RELATIONS OVER LONGER TERM WOULD DEPEND ON SOLUTION FOR ENCLAVES.

4. COMMENT: LAST AUTHORITATIVE PUBLIC MENTION OF ENCLAVES WAS IN KING'S PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST NOVEMBER 25 (76 RABAT 6423). OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO ISSUE REGULARLY IN RECENT MONTHS, HOWEVER. GOM SEEMS UNLIKELY, IN OUR VIEW, TO RESORT TO MORE THAN OCCASIONAL PRO-FORMA REFERENCES TO ENCLAVES AS LONG AS IT IS FACED WITH OVERRIDING CONCERNS SUCH AS TENSIONS WITH ALGERIA AND GUERRILLA WAS IN SAHARA.
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